

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EUR-25

RSR-01 /128 W

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O P 241555Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5053

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSULBIEN HOA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAN THO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DANANG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CDR USSAG NKP PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: PRISONER RELEASES AND TPJMC MEETING JULY 24

REF: SAIGON 13361

SUMMARY. PRISONER RELEASES TO THE PRG AT LOC NINH ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL GVN IS SATISFIED THAT PRG HAS TERMINATED DEMONSTRATIONS AT LOC NINH. REVISED FIGURES SHOW 221 PRISONERS RELEASED TO PRG JULY 24 UP TO TIME DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN AND 24 OPTING JULY 24 TO REMAIN WITH SAIGON REGIME. MORNING SESSION OF REGULAR TPJMC MEETING JULY 24 WAS FRUITLESS ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSION OF MOBILE INVESTIGATION TEAMS. AFTERNOON SESSION WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO PRG DEMONSTRATION AND PRISONER RELEASES AT LOC NINH. SPECIAL SESSION OF TPJMC ON THIS ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LATER REPORT AFTER REF A SENT, GVN SOURCES HAVE INFORMED  
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US THAT FINAL FIGURE ON NUMBER OF PRISONERS RETURNED TO THE PRG

AT LOC NINH JULY 24 WAS 221 AND THAT 24 RETURNEES THAT DAY OPTED TO REMAIN IN RVN. FURTHER RELEASES TO PRG ARE SUSPENDED BY GVN PENDING SATISFACTION THAT PRG DEMONSTRATIONS ARE TERMINATED. GVNDDEL SOURCE SAID SUSPENSION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR REASONS OF SAFETY BECAUSE ABOUT 100 OF THE 300 DEMONSTRATORS WERE ARMED. SOURCE STRESSED TO US THAT PROGRAM IS POSTPONED RATHER THAN CANCELLED SEVERAL GVNDDEL MEMBERS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE EVENING JULY 24 SEEMED ANXIOUS TO RESUME RELEASES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. GVNDDEL SOURCE WHO WAS PRESENT TOLD US THAT TPJMC MORNING SESSION JULY 24 HAD BEEN FRUITLESS, ACRIMONIOUS ARGUMENT OVER ISSUE OF MOBILE INVESTIGATION TEAMS TO GO FROM SAIGON TO HOTTEST SPOTS IN CEASEFIRE. PRG HAS PROPOSED A LONG LIST OF AREAS TO BE INVESTIGATED. GVN WANTS THIS NARROWED TO TONG LE CHAN IN MR 3 AND KONTUM IN MR 2. PRG OBJECTS TO THIS REDUCTION. BOTH SIDES ARE HOLDING FIRM TO THEIR OWN DEFINITIONS OF "AREAS OF CONTROL" FOR OPPOSING MILITARY UNITS WITH GVNDDEL WANTING TO DRAW CIRCLES AND PRGDEL WANTING TO DRAW ONE LINE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

3. AFTERNOON SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO LOC NINH DEVELOPMENTS WITH GVNDDEL CHARGING THAT PRG HAD VIOLATED AGREEMENTS WITH DEMONSTRATIONS. PRGDEL RESPONDED BY MERELY READING THE LIST OF THE NAMES OF THOSE PRISONERS NOT RETURNED BECAUSE THEY RALLIED (WHICH WITH YESTERDAY'S 43, NOW TOTALS 67). GVN NEGOTIATOR PROPOSED TO PRGDEL THAT SESSION BE CONTINUED "UNTIL MIDNIGHT IF NECESSARY," BUT PRGDEL REFUSED. DEPUTY CHIEF OF GVNDDEL SPECULATED TO EMBOFF THAT PRGDEL MAY NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AT LOC NINH AND MAY HAVE TO SEEK COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER COMMAND.

4. A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25 (GVNDDEL WILL BE REPRESENTED BY NUMBER THREE NEGOTIATOR). THE ONLY ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE THE PRISONER RETURN PROBLEM. GVNDDEL IS PREPARED TO MEET AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT AND RESUME RETURN OF PRISONERS.  
MARTIN

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